Rutland April 11th

Vol VII

My Dear Mother Molecally 1874

I have been waiting with considerable impatience to hear from home but how finally concluded I must write again before I shall be gratified. I have so much to say that if I could possibly spend the time I would take the pains to write to Rupert for the privilege of talking with you an hour or two.

Since I wrote you I have received another letter from Sister Julia and returned an answer. For my life I cannot tell how she is situated with regard to Johnson whether she is engaged or not I do not know it appears she has expressed herself in similar terms to our former mere friends they make the same complaint with regard to the obscurity of their letters. Br Smith and Sister Mary feel very much as I do upon this subject we are using our influence to save our Sister and to deliver Johnson from introducing discord into our Harmonious circle

Perhaps you know more than all of us. I wish you would write me all about it. I have lately received a letter from Sister Maria bearing dates between July and October 1873. She has given me some fine descriptions of Ocean-storm and Southern Sky. She seems to have enjoyed herself for the most part very much. She had not arrived at the place of their destination. Her last date was Batavia which by looking on a map of Asia you will see is on the island Java about 6 degrees south of the Equator

She wrote me not a solitary word about Miss Rus-
hard save - "he sends Love to you" - perhaps - because she re-
members I did not fancy him much - I have frequently
exchanged letters with Gainesville friends this Winter - they
have become dearly dear to me since Charlotte has been liv-
ing with them - They have written me again and again to vis-
it them this Spring - but - I have absolutely refused - on the
ground that my time is not my own - I have devoted my-
self to the Lord and am engaged about a great work - which -
His Providence seems to say - leave for nothing at present -

I am preparing Dear Mother - to be ordained in May
next - It was suggested by Mr Hicks some time since that -
I should be examined for Deacons Orders at the coming
Convention - not - with the idea thereof of taking upon
myself immediately the ordinances and responsible duties
of a Parish - but - to continue my studies still longer -
and to preach occasionally as was found most proper -

He thought - the exercise of preaching now and then - would
throw additional interest over my studies and would
be initiating me by degrees into the Sacred office -

The plan struck me favorably - and after mature
deliberation - I wrote to Bishop Hopkins to know his
views - He perfectly accorded with the sentiment of
Mr Hicks - Hence I am spending every moment and sinew
to get myself ready for the solemn transaction
which I expect will take place in about 8 weeks -
I should consent to take this step on no other
consideration than the one suggested above - I do

not feel myself prepared to enter the Ministry. I have been and still am opposed to the idea of any one taking upon them the Sacred Office prematurely. But I do think it will be the means of advancing me more rapidly if I can have the privilege of preaching—say once in 2 weeks for the year to come. 1.2 I think I shall be better prepared then to enter the Vineyard of my Master by so doing than I should be if I spend the whole time in silent meditation and study without this exercise. Please write me and express your views on this subject. My Dear Mother I think I am more and more thankful for the blessed privileges I enjoy. The last week was one deeply interesting to me. The services in our Church for some weeks past have been more particularly pointing to a dying Saviour. Last Friday—known in the Episcopal Church as Good Friday—was observed as a day of solemn fasting and prayer. Being the day when our Lord expired on the Cross. A dying Saviour never appeared so precious the year—and on Saturday—as I often saw Him in the year have carried I portrayed shedding tears of contrition. On the Sabbath—which was Easter day—our services all pointed to a risen Saviour. We were joyful in the hope of God. We knelt at the Altar and partook of the Holy Sacrament. It was good to be there. Our exalted Saviour I trust met with us. I do love the Church—it so beautifully and so perfectly and so constantly holds up to view the ever Blessed Saviour in all His offices.

I shall write you soon again. My health is good. Please write me a letter soon. Address me at Mobile. Love to all.
Your affectionate Son
W. Bacon

P.S. I wrote some time since to Mr Wilson for a letter from the Church in Bridport. Whether he has done anything in it or not I don't know I have received nothing from him. I feel as though I had discharged my duty and shall consequently say nothing more about it - but shall go forward praying

that God would not make my way clear before me and give me heart to do and suffer all his will cheerfully. I wish - when you write me you would tell me what has been done with my case. I am anxious myself that everything should be done harmoniously -

Yours dutiful Son W. P.